

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

<http://dmh.lacounty.gov>

550 SOUTH VERMONT AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90020

Reply To: (213) 738-4601
Fax: (213) 386-1297

May 18, 2011

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.
Director of Mental Health

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "MJS", is written over the name "Marvin J. Southard" in the "FROM" field.

SUBJECT: **REQUEST TO INCREASE DELEGATED AUTHORITY PERCENTAGE
FOR THE OUT-OF-STATE CONTRACTS FOR FISCAL YEARS
2011-12, 2012-13, AND 2013-14**

This memorandum is to comply with Board Policy Manual, Section 5.120, Authority to Approve Increases to Board Approved Contract Amounts. The Policy mandates that any department requesting a percentage increase in delegated authority exceeding ten percent of the total contract amount must provide a detailed justification and advance written notice to your Board, with a copy to the Chief Executive Officer, at least two weeks prior to the Board Meeting at which the proposed contract is to be presented.

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) requests an additional ten percent for a total of twenty percent delegated authority for the three Out-of-State Child Placement (OSCP) mental health services contracts being renewed at this time: Utah Youth Village (Alpine Academy), Sonia Shankman Orthogenic School, and Cinnamon Hills.

This will allow DMH to continue to meet its statutory responsibility which is further controlled by Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) regulations to ensure that DMH is able to offer an appropriate treatment program to each DMH client who has been determined to be eligible for Special Education and related mental health services, who may need placement in a residential treatment program out of State. This request protects the ability of DMH to offer programming options that can address the "unique and individual" needs of each DMH client, and minimizes potential liability to the County against claims that appropriate services were denied to student, via failure of County to make a meaningful offer of placement.

Each Supervisor
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Should there be a need to exceed the twenty percent delegated authority, DMH will return to your Board with a request for authority to amend the Affiliation Agreement accordingly.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me, or your staff may contact Richard Kushi, Chief, Contracts Development and Administration Division, at (213) 738-4684.

MJS:RK:MM:rk

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 Chief Executive Officer
 County Counsel
 Robin Kay, Ph.D.
 Margo Morales
 Deputy Directors
 District Chiefs
 Kimberly Nall
 Richard Kushi